



# U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

## Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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## **Chairman Gregg Commends House for Moving Forward with School Choice Legislation**

**Washington, DC**—Senator Judd Gregg (R-New Hampshire) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions today commended his colleagues in the House for beginning the process of moving school choice legislation through the House of Representatives.

Yesterday, Rep. John Boehner, Chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee and Rep. Tom Davis (R-Virginia), Chairman of the Government Reform Committee introduced the D.C. Parental Choice Incentive Act of 2003. Today Chairman Davis moved the process forward by holding a public hearing on the legislation in his committee.

“We introduced the Opportunity for Every Child Act, in the Senate in February. The introduction of the companion bill in the House this week shows a commitment in both chambers to making school choice a reality for every parent in the District of Columbia,” Chairman Gregg said

“Thanks to the help and support of DC Mayor Anthony Williams, this initiative has a better chance than ever before of passing both the United States House and the Senate,” Gregg said.

“No child should be left behind in a failing school. Every parent deserves to send their child to the school of their choice. By working together, I am confident that Chairman Boehner, Chairman Davis, Mayor Williams and I can put politics aside and put the parents and children of the District of Columbia first. The House has made a good first step and I look forward to working with them as we move choice legislation through Congress and onto the President’s desk,” said Gregg.

## **The Opportunity for Every Child Act:**

- **No child should be trapped in a failing school.** This bill would permit federal dollars to be used to expand educational opportunities for low-income parents who have a child in a failing school.
- **Provides DC Parents Choice.** This bill would provide scholarships to some of the District's poorest students to enable them to select a private school of their choice if that better meets their educational needs than available public or charter schools. This program, like the Cleveland program upheld by the Supreme Court, would allow families to choose from a wide variety of providers, including religious schools.

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